

**ABSTRACT**

The present application describes an anti-virus network system and method guaranteeing a maximum scan delay for streaming data. The maximum scan period can be predetermined  
5 or dynamically calculated. The time to scan an incoming data stream is estimated and compared against the maximum scan time. If the estimated scan time does not exceed the maximum scan time, then the incoming data stream is scanned for computer virus otherwise the data stream is transmitted without the virus scan.

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